MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

31 JANUARY 1983

Israel

Prime Minister Menahem Begin again called on Jordan's King Husayn to join the autonomy talks based on the Camp David agreements and without preconditions, although he firmly rejected the possibility of any changes in or deviations from those agreements, ITIM and Jerusalem radio reported citing Begin's 29 January speech to Israeli Bonds representatives from North America. The prime minister added that Husayn would be accepted in the talks together with Palestinians "who do not take orders from the PLO," ITIM noted.

King Husayn will announce his readiness to join the U.S.-sponsored peace negotiations by 1 March, THE JERUSALEM POST reported on 28 January citing a "secret" cable from U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Richard Viets. Meanwhile, "practical contacts" have begun between Jordan and the United States in anticipation of King Husayn's joining the political process, according to Jerusalem radio. The two countries "apparently agreed" that the talks with Israel would be held in Washington. Husayn declared he is joining the peace negotiations without any precondition, while the United States will ask Israel to make a similar gesture, the radio noted.

In another development President Yitzhaq Navon reportedly informed Begin on 30 January that he will not seek a second term, according to THE JERUSALEM POST. The Labor Party views Navon's expected decision as meaning that, after a self-imposed leave from public life for a limited period, he will be available to lead the Alignment in the coming elections, the paper added.

Lebanon

The Lebanese, Israeli, and U.S. delegations arrived at Khaldah for the 11th round of negotiations, Beirut radio reported on 31 January. Earlier, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan arrived on an official visit to Tunisia, where he stated in remarks broadcast by the radio that he would be happy to meet with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat if circumstances permit. Meanwhile, in a report on the 30 January Israeli Cabinet session, Jerusalem radio said Prime Minister Begin has not changed his view that Israel needs early warning stations in southern Lebanon. However, Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir indicated earlier that Israel would consider alternative proposals to the stations in accordance with Israel's defense needs, the radio reported. Nevertheless, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon told the Israeli paper MA'ARIV that, if the presence of IDF early warning stations also entails similar Syrian stations on Lebanese soil, this would be better than no Israeli presence in the security zone in southern Lebanon. The 45-km security zone should be measured from Israel's northernmost point at Metulla, he stated.

Regarding Soviet missiles in Syria, Sharon said that Israel has no reason to attack the SAM-5's and that the Israelis "have an answer" to Syria's surface-to-surface "Scud" missiles. "I would prefer it if instead of sending missiles the Soviets talked to us," Sharon added. However, a Soviet official visiting Beirut subsequently announced that Israel must withdraw from all occupied Arab territories before talking about an Israeli-Soviet dialogue, SPA reported.

Security Situation -- An IDF soldier was killed and three others were wounded when their patrol was ambushed on 30 January in the southeastern suburbs of Beirut, Jerusalem radio reported. "The Lebanese Front for National Resistance" claimed responsibility for the attack, the radio said. IDF Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Refa'el Eytan asserted that the attackers came from West Beirut, crossing the demarcation line between the multinational force and the IDF, IDF radio reported.

Earlier, Druze and Christian militia engaged in violent artillery exchanges in the 'Alayh area, according to Beirut radio. Shells fell in Christian suburbs of East Beirut, the radio said. A Lebanese forces statement broadcast by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon claimed that not only the Druze socialists but also the Syrian forces in upper Al-Matn were responsible for the bombardment. The radio also cited reports that the Syrians have moved SAM launchers into the hills east of Amyun in northern Lebanon.

A 28 January explosion in the Syrian-controlled town of Shtawarah killed 45 persons, Beirut radio reported. The demolished building housed the PLO's Fatah as well as the "Arab army of Lebanon," Radio Free Lebanon reported. Another explosion near the Independent Hasirite Movement -- Al-Murabitun headquarters in West Beirut also caused casualties, the radio said. The Front for the Liberation of Lebanon from Foreigners and the hitherto unknown "Lebanese cedar force to free Lebanon from Lebanese terrorists" both claimed responsibility for the bombings, AFP reported.

Junblatt Ready for Agreement -- Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt told the weekly MONDAY MORNING that he is ready to sign an agreement with the Lebanese Front to end the sectarian conflict in the Ash-Shuf mountains, Beirut radio reported. Asserting that such an accord should be reached under the auspices of President Amin al-Jumayyil, Junblatt said he would not meet with Lebanese Forces Commander Fadi Afram and he accused the Lebanese Forces or "whoever is backing them" of organizing the recent attempt on his life, according to AFP.

PLO

Fatah Revolutionary Council Statement -- The Fatah Revolutionary Council asserted its commitment to the 5 December Aden statement, which defined the activity of the Palestinian revolution, and affirmed the strengthening and consolidation of Palestinian national unity, San'a' Voice of Palestine radio reported citing a statement issued by the council after meetings in Aden. In a related report, Fatah Central Committee member Salam Khalaf said the council unanimously affirmed that unity in different Palestinian resistance movements forms the "axis and foundation" of Arab-Palestinian combat, according to AFP. Meanwhile, an official Palestinian source said that a decision was made during the Aden meetings to form a new PLO Executive Committee, under present Chairman 'Arafat, which will represent all factions of the Palestinian resistance, QNA reported.

Officials' Activities -- Yasir 'Arafat visited Saudi Arabia on 29 January and met with King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Riyadh radio reported. According to San'a radio, the PLO leader met with YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on 30 January when the two sides reviewed the latest developments in the Palestinian issue as well as the "strong" relations between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions.

Iraq-Iran War

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn stated that he has no objection to meeting with Iran's Ayatollah Khomeyni "if Khomeyni does not view such a meeting as a sin" and that Iraq will do anything that spares the blood of the Iraqi and Iranian peoples and brings stability to the region, Baghdad radio reported citing Husayn's 26 January news conference with Spanish and Portuguese journalists in Baghdad. In his remarks Husayn blamed Khomeyni for the war and added were it not for the ayatollah other influential circles in Iran would have been in a position to achieve peace. The Iraqi president said Iran is preparing for a new offensive in southern Iraq which he is fully confident the Iraqi Army will crush. Husayn denied the United States was sending arms to Iraq and reaffirmed that the USSR has been Iraq's main weapon supplier since the July 1968 revolution. He also denied the presence of an Egyptian army in Iraq and said that Egyptians fighting alongside other Arabs on behalf of Iraq are "volunteers." The president

also said Tariq 'Aziz was appointed foreign minister because of his competence, adding that Sa'dun Hammadi was replaced due to illness.

Iraqi fighter planes shot down an Iranian fighter plane during a 29 January dogfight in the Khowr-e Musa area, an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio claimed. Meanwhile, Iranian planes bombed Iraq's Al-Bakr oil installations and shot down two Iraqi aircraft in the area, according to an Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio. In another development five commanders of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) were killed by Iraqi fire during a 29 January tour of the frontline area, according to IRNA and Tehran radio reports citing an IRGC announcement.

Iran

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati conferred with PRC Foreign Ministry adviser He Ying in Tehran on 29 January, IRNA reported. During the meeting He Ying voiced the PRC's resentment over "Soviet aggression" in Afghanistan and "U.S. aggression" in Lebanon, IRNA added. Velayati said Iran and the PRC have "suitable potential" for the expansion of bilateral relations and accepted an invitation to visit Beijing, IRNA noted.

Egypt

Mubarak Visit to U.S. -- Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali described President Husni Mubarak's talks with President Reagan and other U.S. officials as "most successful" in the political and economic spheres, Cairo radio reported citing the foreign minister's remarks to the Cairo radio mission in New York. 'Ali added that the United States fully understands Egypt's strategy to step up the Mideast peace process, which is based on the affirmation of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, the speeding up of the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, and the achievement of a just and comprehensive settlement of the Middle East question. 'Ali added that the United States will contribute to the implementation of Egypt's 5-year plan and that the U.S. side showed "flexibility" regarding Egypt's use of U.S. loans, the radio noted. In a later report, the radio announced that Mubarak arrived in Canada on 30 January for official talks with Canadian officials.

Bethlehem Mayor's Visit -- Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din received Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj on 29 January and the two sides discussed the situation in the West Bank, according to MENA. Meanwhile, Frayj handed the Foreign Ministry a Palestinian peace document signed by 200 West Bank personalities, expressing readiness for mutual recognition with Israel, Beirut radio reported citing the magazine OCTOBER.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Emergency Arab League Meeting -- Contacts are currently being held in many Arab states to convene an emergency session of the Arab League Council to debate the Libyan-Syrian-Iranian statement issued recently in Damascus, KUNA reported. Citing senior official sources," KUNA added that during the meeting the Arab position will be studied in light of the tripartite statement, which conflicts with both the Arab League Charter and the joint Arab defense treaty. However, Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn denied that Kuwait has received any formal invitation to attend such a meeting, KUNA noted.

PDRY President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad arrived in Algeria on 30 January to discuss bilateral and international relations with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, according to Algiers radio.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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LEADERS CONFER WITH UN REPRESENTATIVE CORDOVEZ

Foreign Minister Dost

LD281535 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 28 Jan 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost met twice, this morning and this afternoon, with Diego Cordovez, representative of the UN secretary general. Topics of mutual interest were discussed in these meetings. Deputy Foreign Ministers Sarwar Yuresh and Sakhi Daneshjo also attended the meetings.

According to another report, the representative of the UN secretary general and his accompanying delegation attended a luncheon given today in his honor by Sarwar Yuresh at the Intercontinental Hotel.

Karmal, Keshtmand

LD291526 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 29 Jan 83

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, this morning received Diego Cordovez, representative of the UN secretary general, for a courtesy visit at the Revolutionary Council headquarters. The two sides discussed topics of mutual interest. Foreign Affairs Minister Shah Mohammad Dost also was present at the meeting.

Soltan Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, also received Diego Cordovez this morning. At this meeting, Sarwar Yuresh, deputy minister of foreign affairs, was also present.

According to another report, Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost continued his discussion with the representative of the UN secretary general this afternoon.

According to another report, Mrs Cordovez this morning visited the Watan kindergarten and met with Mahboba Karmal, head of the kindergarten. Mrs Cordovez also visited the women's central [word indistinct] and met with officials who explained the organization of the [word indistinct] to her.

According to BAKHTAR, Shah Mohammad Dost this evening gave a dinner in honor of Diego Cordovez and his delegation in the banquet hall of the Foreign Affairs Ministry. The dinner was attended by deputy ministers of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, several high-ranking officials and their wives, the head of the UN development program [name indistinct] and his wife, and representatives of UNICEF in Kabul. During the dinner, a concert was performed by artists from Kabul radio.

SOVIET TROOPS REPORTEDLY CAPTURE FRENCH DOCTOR

BK301453 Hong Kong AFP in English 1435 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 30 (AFP) -- A French doctor captured last week by Soviet troops in a village south of Kabul has been identified as Philippe Augoyard, who was working for a French humanitarian medical aid organization, an Afghan resistance spokesman said here.

Citing a resistant present [as received] in the village of Saijawan in the Lowgar Province when the raid occurred, the spokesman said the Frenchman -- described by observers as the first foreign doctor captured in Afghanistan during the last 3 years -- was seized along with several mujahidin resistance fighters who were immediately shot.

He said the doctor, from Aide Medicale Internationale, was held away by the Soviet commando and evacuated to Kabul.

Radio Kabul yesterday reported the capture of a French citizen in the Lowgar Province in the company of "counterrevolutionary elements" who had entered the country secretly from Pakistan. The radio said his "confessions" would be broadcast soon.

According to the resistance spokesman, Soviet airborne troops surrounded Saijawan last Sunday or Monday. Informed sources said two other French doctors were continuing to work in the region treating civilians injured during an Afgahn-Soviet offensive which began January 16.

Reliable sources said the French Embassy in Kabul would seek authorization to visit the captured doctor, who is said to be physically weak.

A French journalist and photographer, arrested in southern Afghanistan in 1980, were released after confessing in a radio and television broadcast to having collaborated in "counterrevolutionary propaganda."

Western observers here and in Peshawar near the Afghan border fear Afghan authorities could decide to sentence the doctor to a long prison term in a bid to dissuade other humanitarian organizations from sending missions to Afghanistan. Since the Soviet invasion 3 doctors, mainly French, have worked to heal civilians and resistance fighters injured in combat.

According to several French doctors returning from Afghanistan, Soviet-Afghan authorities have often sought to capture or kill French medical teams, notably in the Panjshir Valley where they continue working despite repeated bombing raids.

Afghan resistants have admitted to heavy losses during the most recent government offensive against the Lowgar Province where three military convoys backed by Soviet MiGs and helicopters converged on rebel positions earlier this month.

SPA REPORTS ON MUJAHIDIN BATTLE SUCCESSES

LD290018 Riyadh SPA in English 2054 GMT 28 Jan 83

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 28, SPA -- The mujahideen in Afghanistan arrested a Russian sergeant and killed 16 communist Afghan Government troops in an encounter on January 7 in Pol-e Matak area in Velayat-e Parvan north of here, the London-based Afghan Press Agency (AAP) reported here today.

Twenty Soviet tanks were destroyed and 105 Afghani Government troops killed in a fierce battle that took place early in January when the mujahideen attacked a communist convoy in Aqchen Subdivision of Velayat-e Jowzjan in northern Afghanistan.

In the battle, the Afghani mujahideen captured 18 communist Afghani soldiers who were later handed to an Islamic court of justice for trial, the agency said.

It added that during late December and early in January, mujahideen operation in Afghanistan's northern belt, bordering the Soviet Union, markedly increased with the abduction of 17 Soviets in broad daylight from Mazar-e Sharif City.

Fighting in Lowgar

LD302112 Riyadh SPA in English 1915 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 30, SPA -- Three Soviet MiG aircraft were shot down and three Russian soldiers were captured in a fierce battle in the Lowgar Province of Afghanistan last week, Afghan Islamic Press agency (AIP) reported today.

The Peshawar-based agency said seventy dead bodies of Soviet-Afghan Government troops were counted by an eye-witness, Mujahid Abdullah who arrived in Pakistan today. It quoted Abdullah as saying that the fighting started near Pol-e 'Alam, the province's capital city on January 16 when a Soviet-Afghan contingent attacked the mujahideen in the nearby Mohammad Aghah village. The agency said the Soviets had used chemical weapons during the fighting. It added that 14 mujahideen were killed and 70 injured in the Lowgar fighting.

Meanwhile, Kabul radio said a French doctor was captured from the Lowgar area.

NAJIBULLAH, GOL AQA ATTEND LEGALITY SEMINAR

LD292357 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 29 Jan 83

[Text] Najibullah, member of the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee and head of KHAD, opened a seminar today for further strengthening revolutionary and democratic legality and its observance by the special revolutionary prosecution department. The special revolutionary court and officials of KHAD investigative departments participated in the seminar.

In his speech, Najibullah drew to the attention of KHAD officials their crucial duties -- allotted to them under the present revolutionary circumstances -- regarding the laws in force in the DRA.

Heads of the prosecution department and the special revolutionary court, the head of the KHAD investigation department, and a number of other individuals then spoke about consolidation of legality and its implementation without deviation.

General Gol Aqa, member of the PDPA Central Committee and vice chairman of the Revolutionary Council Presidium, emphasized to the respective officials the further implementation of legality; he positively evaluated the work of the session.

RSFSR DELEGATION ENDS VISIT 27 JANUARY

LD280230 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 27 Jan 83

[Text] Florentyev, member of the CPSU Central Committee and RSFSR minister of agriculture, who had come to Kabul at the head of a delegation at the invitation of the Afghan-Soviet Friendship Society to attend the celebration marking RSFSR days, today left for his country.

The delegation was seen off at Kabul Airport by Gol Dad, deputy prime minister and vice chairman of the DRA Peace, Friendship, and Solidarity Organization; members of the above organization; members of the Afghan-USSR Friendship Society; representatives of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; ambassadors; and members of the USSR Embassy in Kabul.

GENERAL ERSHAD ADDRESSES NATION 30 JANUARY

BK310459 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Text] The Chief Martial Law Administator [CMLA] Lieutenant General H.M. Ershad has said the goal of his government is to firmly establish the democratic and fundamental rights of the people through the restoration of the constitution.

Addressing the nation over radio and television last night, he said this would be done keeping in view the Islamic values and by starting the process of democracy through elections in a phased manner. He said preliminary works are already underway for transition to democracy. It is imperative to have a comprehensive and proper outline on every matter before we start political activities.

The CMLA said before the resumption of political process, a few preconditions must be fulfilled in the light of the past experience. These conditions, he said, are indispensable for the functioning of democracy properly and in the real sense. Gen Ershad said he wants to have a constitutional arrangement that will ensure the existence of a powerful opposition in the proposed national assembly. There should be provisions in the constitution to check the mushroom growth of political parties. The existence of a political party should not be desirable unless it gets a minimum level of votes in the proposed general elections. He said steps have already been taken in respect of the first of the three conditions and necessary measures are to be taken in respect of the remaining two conditions after having opinion from all sections of people.

Referring to problems of the students, Gen Ershad said emphatically he and his colleagues do not cling to any political group and their views. He said: We are capable of giving possible solution to the long-standing problems of the students. He said his government is eager to know the problems of the students directly. He expressed his firm belief that the great majority of the students are eager to keep a congenial atmosphere in the educational institutions and determined to devote themselves to studies. The CMLA said he has issued orders to hold all deferred examinations and take measures for publication of results in the current year for preservation of congenial atmosphere in the educational institutions. All, including the students and the guardians, will be safe from the ordeal of uncertainty if it is possible to take examinations on schedule.

The CMLA called for a (?rigorous) view to introduce Bangla in all spheres of our national life. He said after 31 years of the sacrifices made by the pioneers of the language movement, we have failed to establish the proper status of Bangla as a state language. He urged researchers and intellectuals to make efforts to compile terminology for science and engineering to facilitate higher education through the medium of Bangla. He said Bangla is not being used after expectations even in government offices and called upon government employees to be more active in this respect.

Referring to the country's economy, he said the government has been successful in holding back increasing inflation. There are reasons for optimism about the prospect of the increase in industrial output following the handover of many industries and factories to private sector. Gen Ershad said arrangements have been made for banking credit to genuine businessmen and industrialists. The industrialists have been entrusted with the task of ensuring fair wages to the workers to create a healthy condition in the industrial belt.

About the Muslim family laws of 1961, he said measures are underway to amend these laws for ending repression and oppression of our women. Side by side, steps have been taken to ensure that our children are not taken out of the country for heinous purposes in the name of adoption.

DRAFT AGENDA FOR NONALIGNED SUMMIT DRAWN UP

BK301249 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Text] India has completed the draft on the political and economic subjects for the seventh nonaligned summit to be held in New Delhi in March. The draft was dispatched today to New York where it will be distributed among permanent representatives of the nonaligned countries at the United Nations. The copies of the draft are also being given to the UN secretary general.

Official sources said in New Delhi today that the draft was prepared after taking into account the views of a large number of member countries on major issues that the summit is expected to discuss.

IRAQI, IRANIAN PRESIDENTS EXPECTED AT SUMMIT

BK300913 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Text] The secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, has said the presidents of Iran and Iraq are expected to take part in the New Delhi nonaligned summit. Talking to newsmen in Dubayy, he said the summit will provide an opportunity to bring about some sort of rapprochement between them.

Mr Natwar Singh said he will meet the Afghan leaders in Kabul tomorrow and with this India will end its consultations with the nonaligned members.

MAURITIUS TO SEEK SUPPORT ON DIEGO GARCIA

BK281620 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Jan 83

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister of Mauritius Harish Boodhoo has urged the international community to support his country's demand for the return of Diego Garcia. He told a news conference in New Delhi today that Mauritius would mobilize the support of all nonaligned countries for the purpose at the coming summit. He reiterated that the Indian Ocean should be truly demilitarized and said that the growing armaments race in the area is causing deep concern to several countries, including Mauritius, India, and the other littoral states. Boodhoo pleaded for greater Indian participation in the Mauritius development programs, particularly in the field of joint enterprises.

NEW CABINET MEMBERS SWORN IN 29 JANUARY

BK290900 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Jan 83

[Text] The union Council of Ministers has been reshuffled. The former Andhra Pradesh chief minister, Mr Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy, and the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, are included as Cabinet ministers.

Mr Buta Singh, minister of state for sports, has been elevated to the cabinet rank.

The new ministers of state included today are: Mr Vittal Gadgil, Mr Harinath Mishra, Mr Ram Niwas Mirdha, Mr Chandra Shekhar Singh, and Mr S.M. Krishna.

Those who have been elevated from the rank of deputy ministers to ministers of state are: Mr K.P. Singh Deo, Mr Arif Mohammad Khan, Mr Kalpanath Rai, and Mr Dharam Vir.

The swearing in took place in the yellow room of Bashtrapati Bhawan. The president, Giani Zail Singh, administered the oath of office and secrecy. The vice president, Mr Hidyatullah, the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, and some of her Cabinet colleagues were present on the occasion.

Further Details

BK291327 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Jan 83

[Text] Seven new ministers have been inducted into the central Council of Ministers. In a major reshuffle, seven ministers have been dropped and the portfolios of a number of ministers have been changed.

The reconstituted Council of Ministers has three new ministers of Cabinet rank. They include the former chief minister of Andhra Pradesh, Mr Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy, who is minister without portfolio, and the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, who has taken over as commerce minister. Mr Buta Singh, who was minister of state, has been promoted to Cabinet level and given the portfolios of parliamentary affairs and sports with the additional charge of works and housing.

Among the nine new ministers of state, five are new entrants and the others have been promoted from the level of deputy ministers. The new ministers of state and their portfolios are: Mr Harinath Mishra, rural development, and Mr Ram Narain Mirdha, irrigation, both of whom will hold independent charge; Mr V.N. Gadgil, communications; Mr S.M. Krishna, industry; Mr Chandra Shekhar Singh, energy; Mr K.P. Singh Deo, defense; Mr Arif Mohammad Khan, agriculture; Mr Dharam Vir, labor and rehabilitation; and Mr Kalpanath Rai, parliamentary affairs.

The prime minister has recommended to the president the acceptance of the resignations of one Cabinet minister, four ministers of state, and two deputy ministers. They are: Mr Kedar Pandy [irrigation], Mr Vikram Mahajan [energy], Mr Baleshwar Ram [agriculture], Mr R.V. Swaminathan [agriculture], Mr Sita Ram Kespi [shipping and transport], Mr Brajmohan Mohanty [work and housing], and Giridhar Gomango [labor and rehabilitation].

In a reallocation of portfolios, Mr Bhisma Narain Singh gets civil supplies.

The portfolios of six ministers of state have been changed. The ministers and their new portfolios are: Z.R. Ansari, shipping and transport; Mr Gargi Shankar Mishra, petroleum; Dalbir Singh, coal; Mrs Mohsina Kidwai, health and family welfare; Mr Yogendra Makwana, agriculture; and Mr Shiv Raj Patil, science and technology, atomic energy, space, electronics, and ocean development.

Mr Mallikarjun, who was deputy minister for railways and parliamentary affairs, will now be deputy minister for information and broadcasting and parliamentary affairs.

The All India Radio correspondent understands that a couple of more changes in the Council of Ministers will be announced soon.

AKALI DAL LEADERS DIRECTED 'TO BE IN DELHI'

BK290316 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Jan 83

[Text] Akali Dal President Sant Harchand Singh Longwal has directed senior leaders of the party to be in Delhi for the next few days. According to an agency message, this was announced by Sant Longowal in Amritsar last evening.

Meanwhile, Congress-I member of Parliament Amriender Singh and Ravinder Singh, a member of the Akali negotiating committee, are reported to have met Sant Longowal and later Parkash Singh Badal and Balwant Singh yesterday.

SPECIAL POWERS ACT FOR ASSAM 'IN EFFECT'

BK300859 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Text] The president has given assent to the Assam Executive Magistrate's Special Powers Act 1983. The act comes into immediate effect. It confers special powers on the executive magistrate in the state for a period of 3 months. Under it, he is empowered to try and dispose of cases relating to offenses under the Indian penal code or any other law and offenses against public tranquillity and contempt of lawful authority by public servants.

CPI-M EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER ASSAM, PUNJAB

BK281618 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Jan 83

[Text] Communist Party of India-Marxists [CPI-M] have urged all left and democratic forces in the country to remain vigilant against reactionary elements trying to create disruption. The Central Committee of the CPI-M, which met in Calcutta, also expressed its concern over the present situation in Assam and Punjab.

Talking to newsmen at the conclusion of the 3-day meeting Party General Secretary E.M.S. Namboordipad criticized the opposition parties who gave a call for election boycott in Assam.

PARTY LEADER URGES TALKS ON ELECTORAL REFORM

BK291600 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Jan 83

[Text] The president of the Baratiya Janata Party, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, has urged the government to hold talks with the opposition on the question of electoral reforms. At a news conference in New Delhi today, he said the Cabinet committee appointed in 1981 to consider electoral reforms should be asked to complete its work without delay.

Mr Vajpayee also made a strong plea for postponing the elections in Assam. He expressed his disapproval of the growth of regional parties and said such parties cannot take an overall view of the country's problem.

UN INFORMED OF 1982 AFGHAN BORDER VIOLATIONS

BK281410 Hong Kong AFP in English 1352 GMT 28 Jan 83

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 28 (AFP) -- Pakistan was shelled from Afghanistan six times between August to December last year while Afghan Air Force planes committed 22 airspace violations during the same period, the Associated Press of Pakistan (AFP) news agency said today.

It said Pakistan had complained to the United Nations in a letter sent to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cueller on Tuesday.

Pakistan's permanent ambassador to the UN, Sardar Shahnawaz, cited two "particularly serious" incidents in which Soviet-made helicopter gunships took part, according to the agency.

It said four Afghan helicopters last September fired rockets at an Afghan refugee camp at Batai Village in the northwestern Kurram tribal territory -- on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border -- wounding two children and killing several head of cattle.

Another "serious violation" was reported from Baluchistan Province last month when an Afghan helicopter gunship fired twice at the Domandi border checkpost. The intruding helicopter repeated the raids 15 minutes later, the agency said.

The Pakistani letter has been made part of UN documents on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security, the agency added.

Observers here said there were relatively fewer airspace violations in the past 6 months compared to the first half of 1981 when Islamabad claimed that Afghan planes intruded more than 300 times into Pakistani territory.

The number of violations sharply declined after Pakistan signed a $3.2 billion arms and economic aid package with the U.S. in June 1981 to strengthen its security which was "threatened by the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan."

ZIA COMMENTS ON ISLAMIZATION, AFGHANISTAN

BK281113 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 28 Jan 83

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said they are trying to bring the country on its proper track so that it could continue the journey toward Islamization that it began in 1947. For this, there is no need of any referendum. He was talking to newsmen at the Islamabad Airport where he had gone to receive the Nigerian president.

In reply to a question on the optimism expressed by the special UN envoy on Afghanistan about his mission, he said he himself by nature was also optimistic.

GUARDS CORPS COMMANDERS 'MARTYRED' 29 JANUARY

LD301150 Tehran IRNA in English 0905 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 30, IRNA -- Five commanders of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corp (IRGC) were martyred Saturday in the front lines of the Iraqi imposed war, an IRGC announcement said here.

Condoling and congratulating the nation, the IRGC stressed that it was the blood of such martyrs which trembled pillars of tyrannical rule of criminals and that of the allies of international oppression.

In another message in this connection, the War Information H.Q. referred to the outstanding role the five martyred IRGC commanders played in the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

They also exerted utmost efforts to preserve the Constitution of such a revolutionary institution since they had realised that in the absence of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, there would be no country at all, it added.

Minister Comments

LD301158 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Text] According to an Islamic Republic news agency report, Mohsen Rafiqdust, minister of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, spoke to reporters today at the conclusion of the Cabinet session and elaborated on the martyrdom of a number of commanders of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. He said seven of the corps' commanders and valiants who had traveled to the frontline on an inspection tour were hit by the bullets of the Zionist enemy; six were martyred and one was injured. He said Hassan Baqeri and Majid Baqa'i were two of the great valiants of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps who were martyred in this incident. The corps minister stressed that this tragedy will have no effect on the course of future operations.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF ISSUES COMMUNIQUES

Communique No 1,197

LD281740 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Jan 83

[Communique No 1,197 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. During the past 24 hours, battle and exchanges of fire continued sporadically on the country's western fronts. In carrying out defense measures in their defense areas, dispatching patrol groups, and opening artillery and heavy weapons fire, the Islamic combatants inflicted losses and casualties on the Saddamist mercenaries, setting two of the Iraqi mercenaries' trucks on fire and destroying several of their trenches together with their crew.

In the (Khan Beygi) area, enemy patrols attempted to penetrate our forces' positions but were forced to flee by the timely fire of the combatants of Islam, who are ready to sacrifice their lives.

Exchanges of artillery fire continued on the Marivan front although not as intense as on previous days.

On the southern fronts, the strong combatants of Islam in their defense trenches continued to guard the borders of our Islamic homeland. While further consolidating their positions, they brought the Saddamist mercenaries' activities and movements under control with timely fire, inflicting losses and casualties on the Iraqi forces' fortifications.

The fire of the heroes of the Gendarmerie on the Saddamists' positions across the Arvand Rud killed or wounded a number of Saddamist mercenaries and destroyed three heavy machinegun positions and several foxholes and observation posts. Movements by the the Iraqi mercenaries' vehicles on the Al-Faw-Basra axis also were stopped. The artillery fire of Saddam's criminal mercenaries damaged installations at Abadan yesterday.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,198

LD291714 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Jan 83

[Communique No 1,198 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. During the past 24 hours, exchanges of heavy weapons fire continued in the western operational zones of the country. It was more intense in Mehran region. As a result of our forces' fire on the western fronts, two Iraqi vehicles carrying military personnel were destroyed and positions and fortifications of the forces of Saddam were set on fire.

The exchange of artillery fire continued yesterday on the Marivan front where our forces had fire superiority. Fighting units of Islam opened fire on enemy positions and concentrations in the Panjwin and Shahsavanan regions and neutralized the enemy forces' activities.

In the southern operational zones, exchanges of fire continued throughout the contact line yesterday. On the fronts in this region, our forces' heavy weapons stopped all enemy movement and activity in their supply axes, destroyed positions, and killed personnel of the forces of Saddam.

In the Abadan operational zones, the fighters of Islam prevented the digging of trenches and the construction of fortifications on the other side of the Arvand Rud and destroyed enemy personnel and weapons trenches.

Residential and economic sectors of Abadan yesterday came under enemy heavy weapons fire and some parts of the city were set on fire and destroyed.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,199

LD301756 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Communique No 1,199 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. While expressing congratulations and condolences at the martyrdom of six guards corps fellow-combatants, the conditions on the fronts of the imposed war are brought to the attention of the dear compatriots.

At 1145 and 1146 yesterday, the proud personnel of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran shot down two invading planes of the aggressor Iraqi forces in the Al-Bakr jetty area; at 1159, they bombed the Al-Bakr jetty and inflicted considerable damage to its installations.

At dawn yesterday, an Iraqi forces unit with artillery support attempted to advance and approach our defensive lines in a sector on the Moharram operational front, but with total alertness and heavy artillery fire the victorious and mighty combatants of Islam halted the Ba'thist mercenaries' convoy and quickly forced it to retreat after suffering losses and casualties. An hour later, in the same sector, the Saddamist mercenaries attempted another feeble offensive. This time too the brave and self-sacrificing combatants of Islam foiled the enemy offensive with the utmost forcefulness and superiority of firepower and military strength.

In another sector on the same front, enemy armored forces attempted to change position, but the Ground Forces' heavy artillery fire prevented the Saddamist mercenaries from moving, and by forcing enemy tanks to retreat, they pinned them down in their original positions.

During exchanges of fire in the Abadan and Khorramshahr front, Gendarmerie combatants and others stationed on those fronts pounded enemy positions on the other side of the Arvand Rud, inflicting considerable damage. They destroyed five slit trenches and foxholes and six observation posts with their crews.

On the other southern fronts, the defenders of Islam continued to strengthen their defensive positions and to defend their sectors. They alternately brought enemy positions and units under fire and were in control of all enemy movements.

During the past 24 hours, sporadic exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire continued on the western fronts. Our forces' fire on enemy positions and personnel destroyed four vehicles and several light and heavy weapons emplacements and put four other enemy vehicles out of action. Several Saddamists were killed or wounded.

In the Marivan sector, the combatants of Islam alternately brought enemy positions under fire, inflicting losses and casualties in the Khurmal, Zalameh, and Rawshan sectors and silencing enemy fire. They also destroyed an enemy engineering vehicle.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

SPEAKER SEES CIA LINK WITH 'ARMED REVOLT'

LD302139 Tehran IRNA in English 1909 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Text] Tehran, Jan 30 IRNA -- It is now proved that those who committed armed revolt against the Islamic Republic chanting leftist and or communist slogans were connected with the CIA because they would not have otherwise enjoyed financial and publicity support of the U.S. and Europe. This was said by Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani today in his address to members of the officially recognized religious minorities and other visitors at the Majlis building.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani asked "why those countries which support the terrorists did not support us in the long course of our struggle against the defunct shah. Why did they impose restrictions on Imam Khomeyni in France and even desired his expulsion?"

The Majlis speaker also said that the enemies of Islam and oppressed people were very uneasy by the triumph of the Islamic Revolution in order to destroy it or stop its progress. He added "the enemies support terrorism and condemn us if we fight against it. They impose war upon us and if we defend ourselves, they accuse us of being warmongerers."